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Troy, New York; Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

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SIMPLIFIED SOLUTION OF THE STRESSES IN SPACE FRAME STRUCTURES CHARLES L. HAYEN







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(a) "Simplified Solution of the Stresses in Space Frame
Structures" by It C. J. H. Structures" by Lt. C. L. Hayen, CEC, USN. This thesis discusses the analysis of space frame structures by the method of "tension coefficients". A simplified application of the method is presented and two examples are presented to illustrate the application. The simplified application could be used in the analysis of simple space frame structures, however further research is considered necessary before more complex frames could be analyzed by this method.



SIMPLIFIED SOLUTION OF SPACE FRAME STRUCTURES

Submitted to the faculty of
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in
partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of
Civil Engineering.

By
Charles L. Rayon
August, 1947
Troy, New York

Thesis HA

ACKNOW LF DGEMENT

Joseph S., Kinney and Professor John M. Beatty of the Civil Engineering Department of Rensealer Polytechnic Institute for their suggestions and criticism in connection with this study.

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I TULUULICE

Since all framed structures have length, bro dth, and thickness. Ill frames actually are space structures. lesigners are accustomed to tre t designs of frames as a group of planar fr mes, despite the fact that the twisting action of an eccentric or disgonal wind force upon a steel frame produces a problem involving forces in space. There are structures where the entire analysis must be studied in three dimensions. Framed pedestels, towers with three or more legs, framed domes, and bridge trusses having a common chord, are examples of space framer. The necessary computations are not particularly complicated, but they are more tedious than those is volved in the analysis of planar structures. Lethods have been devised to reduce the tedious work involved in the solution of space frames. The subject of this paper is another simplification of the solution of space structures. Determinancy of space structures. Methods for simplified space frame solutions have been investigated in the last fifteen years by many of the leading design engineers and mathematicians. These methods have been derived from work done in Durope during the nineteenth century. First solutions were regular calculations of forces and moments at joints in the three planes. The determinancy of the

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moment equations can be used at each joint which has members in three planes. Each joint with members in only one plane will reduce the tetal number of possible equations by two. According to Grinter, these statements give the formula for determining whether or not a frame is determinate. His equation:

r + b = 3j-p where r = Number of reactions

b - Number of bars

j = Number of joints

p = Sumber of joints
 in which all mem bers lie in one
 planes.

Spofford's equation for determinancy has a greater range for application. If a reaction is eliminated by method of construction either by fixing the direction of certain reactions or by eliminating it entirely, the number of equations should be reduced.

Therefore, if a frame required a certain number of reactions for stability and this number gives an indeterminate structure, certain reactions are changed by construction to give a determinate structure.

"pofford's equation:

3j = b + 3r-s where j - Sumber of joints

r - Rumber of supports

b = Rumber of bars

s = Number of reactions eliminated The second secon

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THE RESERVE

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down the possibility of solving a space frame. The problem which still remains however is to place the reactions and use enough to make the structure stable. It is evident that in many complex structures, the most difficult problem is to place the reaction so as to have a stable and determinate structure. In preparing this paper, the placing of reactions for the various illustrative problems presented the greatest difficulty. This was met in some cases by stating conditions which would limit the number of reactions. The reason for stating conditions will be further discussed for each problem.

Method of Tonsion Coefficients. A method of tension coefficients was decised by Professor H. V. Southwell of Oxford which simplifies the straight computations involved when the six equations are written at each joint. This method will be explained briefly because the subject of this paper is a modification of the method of tension coefficients.

In this method, the stress in a bar equals the product of the length of the member and the tension coefficient T = th. Assume a bar AB in a space frame and carrying a tensile force of TAB. If LAB is the

and the second s makes the same of all will see a fine process and provide the published to the second time a distribution of the second sec SHOWING THE RESIDENCE THE PERSON NAMED IN and street and a second second second second second THE OWNER OF THE OWNER OF THE OWNER, THE PERSON NAMED IN THE RESERVE TO SELECT A SECURITION OF THE PARTY OF THE PA

length, the force on the bar is equal to T_{AB} : $t_{AB}L_{AB}$ If the coordinates in space of points A and B are respectively x_A , y_A , z_A and x_B , y_B , z_B , then the component of T_{AB} in the X direction in bar AB equals $T_{AB}(x-x)$. If this component is divided by L_{AB} , then it equals $t_{AB}(x-x)$. Also

$$\frac{T_{AB}(y_B-y_A)}{L_{AB}} = t_{AB}(y_B-y_A)$$
and
$$\frac{T_{AB}(z_B-z_A)}{L_{AB}} = t_{AB}(z_B-z_A)$$

Components along X, V, and Z axes at B are:

which are equal in magnitude but opposite in sign to those at A. At any joint the summation of the tension coefficients times the projections on the axis plus external forces is equal to zero along each axis.

Since all members are assumed to have tension, tension coefficients with positive signs are in tension, and those with negative signs are in compression.

Object The method of tension coefficients can be further simplified into a system of projection ratio multiples. The object of this paper is to develop the

AND THE RESERVE TO STREET, STR -----The second secon ----the first term of the party of the party of 200 the second of the last property which the property will be a property of the last party of the last pa theory and e-planation of this method.

Comparison. This simplified solution is similar to the use of index numbers in planar structures. The solution is very simple for simple frames; however for complex frames, the solution is still complex. On comparison with other methods, it gives a simpler solutions for the simplex frames investigated; he ever it is probable that some problems could be solved easier by other methods. This could only be shown by comparison with every type and therefore is beyond the scape of this paper.

THE SI PLIFIED SOUTION

The method of tendion coefficients can be modified to a system similar to index numbers in plan r true as. These numbers ill be called bt number in this paper. The ht number in each bir will be positive if tensile stress and negative if compressive stress. The stress in the member will be a product of the ht number and the length of the member divided by the term b. The term h is the key to this simplified solution: therefore it must be understood what the distance h is before the problem can be solved by this method. In tension coefficients method, the solution is started at a joint which has an external load. There are one or more mowhers which take this external load out of the joint. If the load is parallel to one of the axes chosen, the distance h is the distance from the first joint solved to the next joint on a line parallel to the load. The distance h for other directions of loading will be taken up in a later problem and a general definition of h will be given in the summary.

Proof of equation:

Stress = ht x L

The preof of this equation can be made by taking a simple joint of a space frame and applying the

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method of tension coefficients.

In the following truss, the load of unity acts

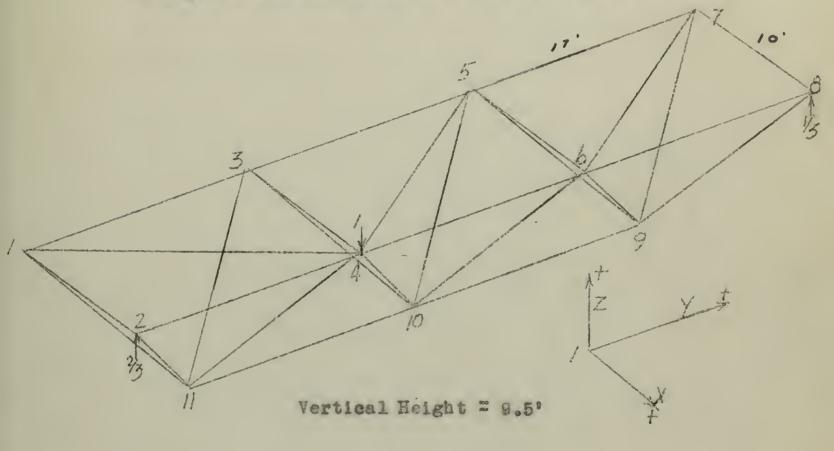
parallel to one axis and acts on a member connecting

two supports. This is, of course, a special loading

and for the rections shown rould not be stable under

any other loading. It will be a good example, however,

to explain the derivation of this method of solution.



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In the proof, instead of writing $t_{BA}(x_A-x_B)$, the term will be $t_{BA}x_{BA}$ with the proper sign on the projection x_{BA} .

Solving for joint 2.

In the E direction:

$$t_{21}(-x_{21}) + t_{2-11}(-x_{2-11}) = 0$$

In the Y direction:

$$t_{24}(Y_{24}) + t_{2-11}(Y_{2-11}) = 0$$

In the Z direction:

$$t_{2-11}(-2_{2-11}) + 2/3 = 0$$

Since joint 2 is the origin of the solution, the member 2-11 projected into the plane of the force gives the distance h. This projection equals $\mathbb{Z}_{2-11} = \mathbf{b}$

Therefore:

$$t_{2-11} = \frac{2/8}{h}$$

$$t_{21} = -\frac{x_{2-11}}{\lambda_{21}} \frac{(2/3)}{h}$$

$$t_{24} = -\frac{y_{2-11}}{y_{24}} \frac{(2/3)}{h}$$

Since every member solved at this joint has some constant over h and every member to be solved depends upon these first three members, it can be seen that

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the tension coefficient of every member in the structure will be a constant over h. Therefore, let all tension coefficients be multiplied by h.

This gives;

$$ht_{21} = \frac{2/3}{1}$$

$$ht_{21} = \frac{-X_2-11}{1}$$

$$ht_{24} = \frac{-X_2-11}{1}$$

$$\frac{(2/3)}{1}$$

The ht's now equal a ratio of projections times the reaction (2/3). The ratio is the projection of the known to the projection of the unknown.

In this truss the projection ratios of all members will be 1/1, 1/2, or 2/1. This will not be the case in all structures of course but since space frames usually have some symmetry, the ratios are easily determined.

To go back to the equations:

The X projection ratio
$$-\frac{5}{10} = -\frac{1}{2}$$
The Y projection ratio $-\frac{8.5}{17} = -\frac{1}{2}$

Therefore:

$$ht_{2-11} = 2/3$$
 $ht_{21} = -1/3$
 $ht_{34} = -1/3$

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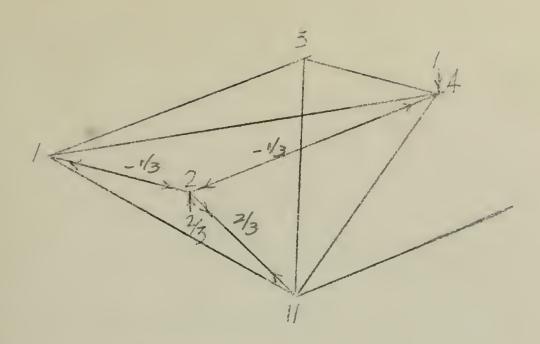
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Solution of Joint 1:

In the A direction:

$$t_{18}(X_{12}) + t_{18}(X_{18}) + t_{1-11}(A_{1-11}) = 0$$

In the Y direction:

$$t_{13}(Y_{13}) + t_{14}(Y_{14}) + t_{1-11}(Y_{1-11}) = 0$$

In the Z direction:

$$t_{1-11} = 0$$

From joint 2, $t_{12} = -\frac{1/3}{5}$

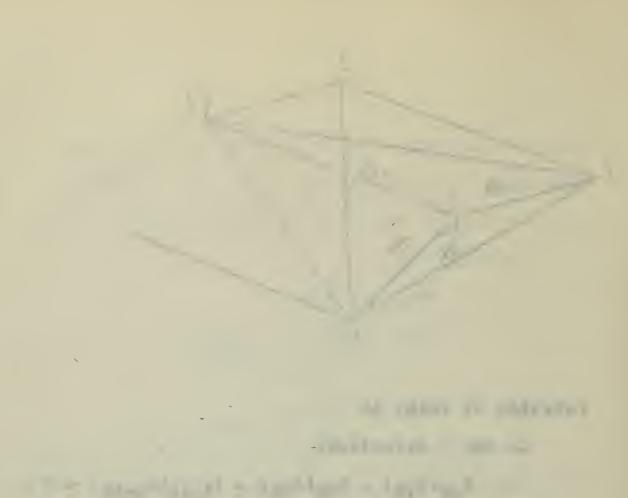
Therefore:

$$t_{14} = \frac{x_{12}}{x_{14}} \frac{(1/3)}{(1/3)} = \frac{1}{1} \times \frac{1/3}{1} = \frac{1/3}{1}$$

$$t_{13} = -\frac{Y_{14}}{Y_{13}} \frac{(1/3)}{h} = -\frac{1}{1} \times \frac{1/3}{h} = -\frac{1/3}{h}$$

And,

$$ht_{14} = 1/3$$
 $ht_{13} = -1/3$
 $ht_{1-11} = 0$

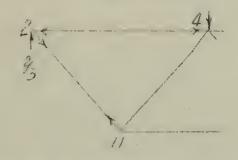


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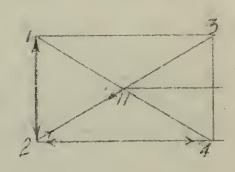
as the tension coefficients; however using the for rules stated, and solving the projection ratios mentally, the solution is made on sight for all ht's of the truss. In order to descent tate, the joints and members of the whole truss will be solved in steps, and an explanation will be made of each step.

Joint 2:

Y-Z Plane



1-Y plane



From Y-Z Plane:

 $ht_{2-11} = 2/3$ - the projection ratio is 1/1 hen the load lies parallel to one of the axis.

ht₂₄ = -1/3 - the projection of the known, 2-11 to the unknown 24 is 1/2. $1/2 \times 2/2 = 1/3$. The minus sign shows the compression necessary to take the tension of 2-11

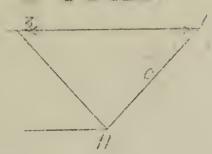
From I-Y Plane;

ht₂₁ = -1/3 - the projection of the known, 2-11, to the unknown 21 is 1/2. 1/2 x the known ht₂₋₁₁ which is 2/3 = 1/3. Hember is in compression.

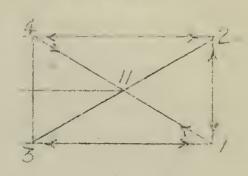
The state of the s -----Management of the latest property of

Joint 1:

Y-Z Plane



A-Y Plate



From Y-Z Plane;

ht1-11 = 0 - no reaction or load.

Fom X-Y Plane:

ht₁₄ = 1/3 - the projection of the known 12, to the projection of the unknown, 14, is 1/1.

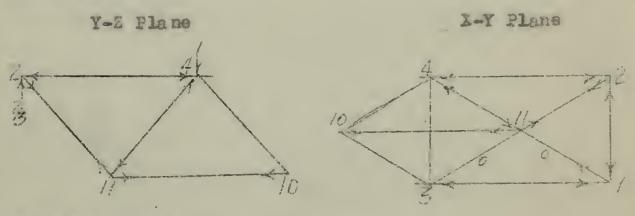
1/1 x the known ht which is 1/3 = 1/3.

ht₁₃ = -1/3 - the projection of the known, 14, to the projection of the unknown, 13, ie 1/1.

1/1 x the known ht which is 1/3 = 1/3.

Member is in compression.

Joint 11:



From Y-Z Plane;

 $ht_{11-3} = 0$ - the stress in member 11-1 is 0. $ht_{11-4} = -2/3$ - the projection of the known, 11-2, to

... all the same and the same the second secon

the projection of the unknown, 11-4, is 1/1. 1/1 x the known which is 2/3 = 2/3. Member is in compression.

From X-Y Plane:

$$ht_{11-10} = 2/3 - \frac{\text{projection known, } 11-2}{\text{projection unknown, } 11-10} = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\frac{\text{projection known, } 11-4}{\text{projection unknown, } 11-10} = \frac{1}{2}$$

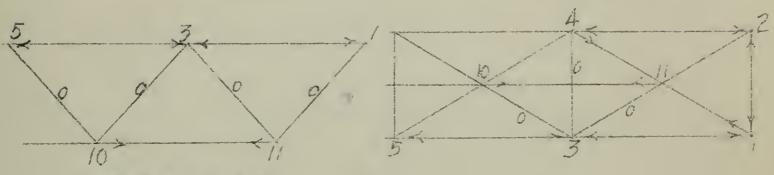
Both members act in same direction; therefore, $1/2 \times 2/3 + 1/2 \times 2/3 = 2/3$.

Joint 3:

- 2

Y-Z Plane

X-Y Plane



From Y-Z Plane:

From X-Y Plane:

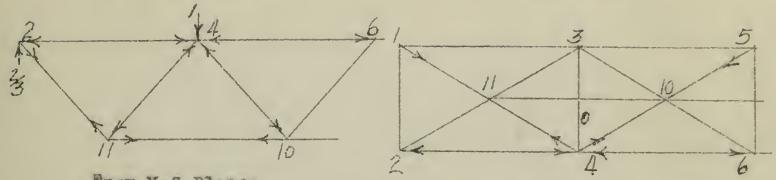
ht34 = 0 - only member at the point which does not lie in plane with other members.

Member is in compression.

The same of the sa •

Y-Z Plane

X-Y Plane



From Y-Z Plane:

ht₄₋₁₀ = -1/3 - projection ratio = 1/1. Enowns act in opposite directions; therefore 1 - 2/3 = 1/3.

Member is in compression.

From X-Y Plane: In X direction:

ht
$$_{45} = 1/6$$
 - projection 4-11 - 1 projection 45 - 2

projection 4-10 - 1 projection 45 - 1 projection 45 - 1 1 1/2 x 2/3 + 1/2 x 1/3 - 1/1 x 1/3 = 1/6.

In Y Direction:

$$ht_{46} = 1/3 - \underbrace{projection 42}_{projection 46} = \frac{1}{1}$$

$$\frac{\text{projection } 4\text{-}11}{\text{projection } 46} = \frac{1}{2}$$

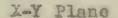
$$\frac{\text{projection } 45}{\text{projection } 46} = \frac{1}{1}$$

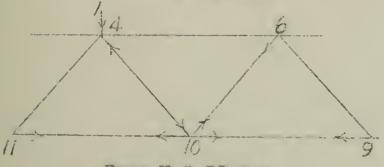
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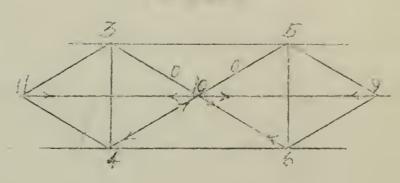
$1/1 \times 1/3 + 1/2 \times 2/3 + 1/1 \times 1/6 - 1/2 \times 1/3$ - $1/1 \times 1/3 = 1/3$

Joint 10:

Y-Z Plane







From Y-S Plane:

$$ht_{10-5} = 0 - ht_{10-5} = 0$$

$$ht_{10-6} = 1/3 - \frac{projection 10-4}{projection 19-6} = \frac{1}{1}$$

$$1/1 \times 1/3 = 1/3$$
.

From X-Y Plane:

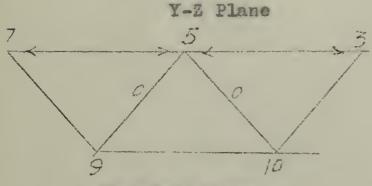
$$ht_{10-9} = 1/3 - \frac{projection 10-11}{projection 10-9} = \frac{1}{1}$$

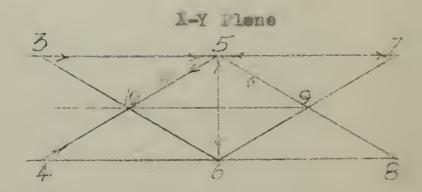
$$\frac{\text{projection } 10-4}{\text{projection } 10-9} = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\frac{\text{projection } 10-6}{\text{projection } 10-9} = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$1/1 \times 2/3 - 1/2 \times 1/3 - 1/2 \times 1/3 = 1/3$$
.

Joint 5:





From Y-Z Plane:

$$ht_{59} = 0 - ht_{5-10} = 0$$

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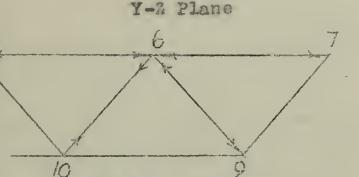
From X-Y Plane: In X direction:

ht₅₆ =
$$-1/6$$
 - projection 54 = $\frac{1}{1}$
 $1/1 \times 1/6 = 1/6$.

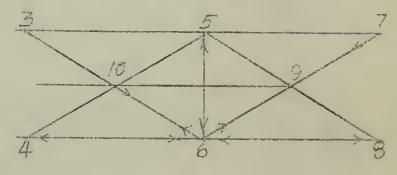
Member is in com rescion

In Y direction:

Joint 6:



X-Y Plane



From Y-2 Plane;

ht₆₉ =
$$-1/3$$
 - projection 6-10 - 1
projection 69 - 1
1/1 x 1/2 = 1/3.

Member is in compression.

From X-Y Plane: In X direction:

ht₆₇ = 1/6 - projection 65 =
$$\frac{1}{1}$$

projection 69 = $\frac{1}{2}$

projection 67 = $\frac{1}{2}$

projection 6-10 = $\frac{1}{2}$

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X direction, X-Y Plane continued:

$$1/1 \times 1/6 + 1/2 \times 1/3 - 1/2 \times 1/3 = 1/6$$

In Y direction:

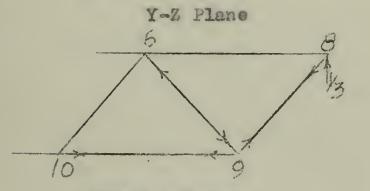
ht
$$_{68} = -1/6 - \frac{\text{projection } 64}{\text{projection } 68} = \frac{1}{1}$$

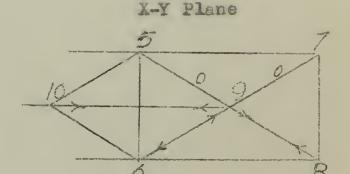
$$1/1 \times 1/3 + 1/1 \times 1/6 - 1/2 \times 1/3$$

- $1/2 \times 1/3 = 1/6$

Member is in compression

Joint 9.





From Y-Z Plane;

$$ht_{97} = 0 - ht_{95} = 0$$

$$ht_{98} = 1/3 - \underbrace{projection 96}_{projection 98} = \underbrace{1}_{1}$$

$$1/1 \times 1/3 = 1/3$$
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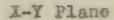
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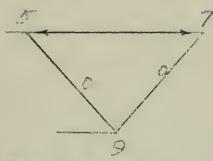
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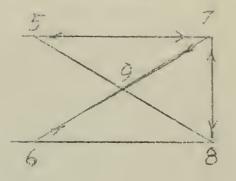
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Joint 7:

Y-Z Flane







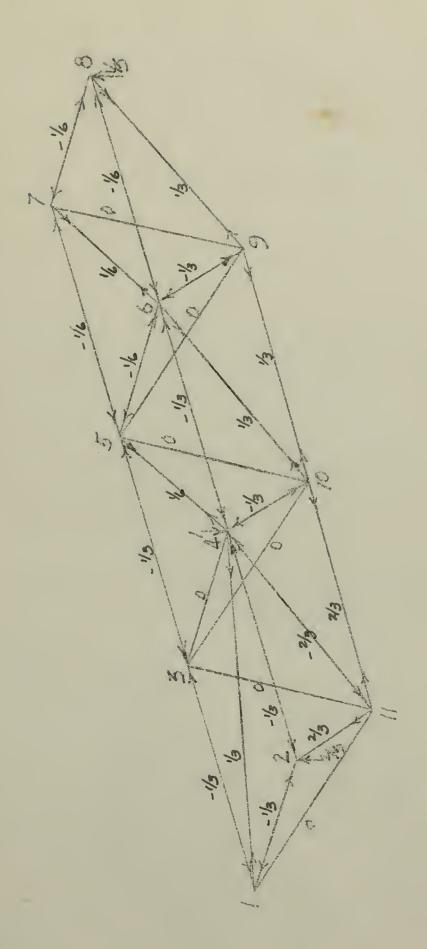
From X-Y Plane:

$$ht_{78} = -1/6 - \frac{projection}{projection} \frac{76}{78} = \frac{1}{1}$$

$$1/1 \times 1/6 = 1/6$$
.

Member is in compression.

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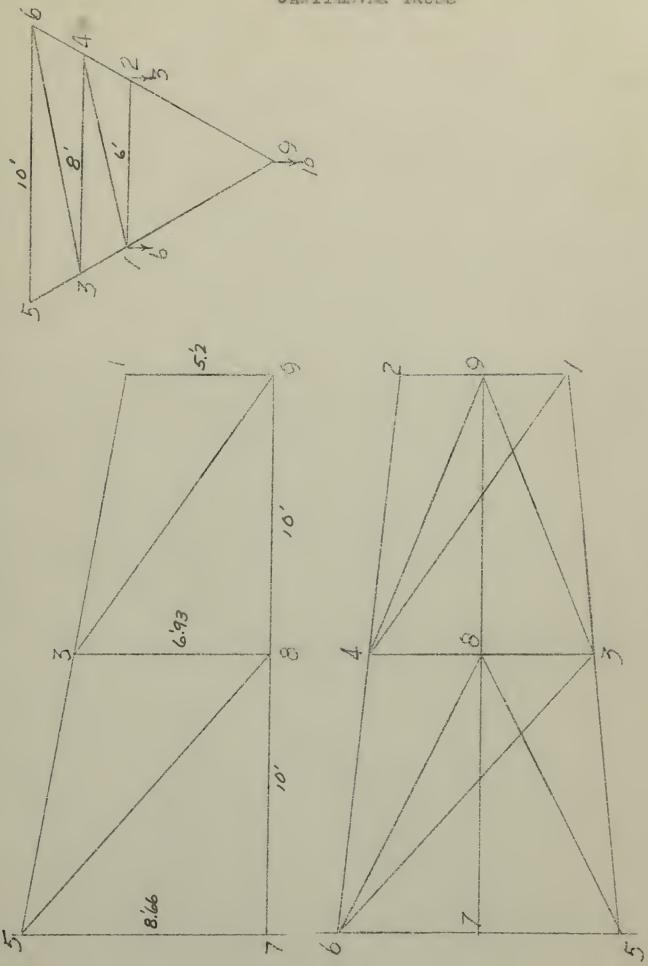




Cummary table:

Member	Longth (L)	ht number	h	Stress bt x L
12 13	10	-1/3 -1/3	9.5	35 595
14	19.7	1/3	9.5	.000
2-11	17	-1/3 2/3	9.5	~.595 .963
34 35	10 17	-1/3	9.5	545
3-11 3-10	13.7	0	9.5	.000
45 46	19.7	1/6	9.5	595
4-11	13.7 13.7	-2/3 -1/3	9.5	963 481
56 57	10	-1/6 -1/6	9.5	298
5-10 59	13.7	0	9.5	.000
67 68	19.7	1/6 -1/6 1/2	9.5	298
6 -1 0	13.7	-1/3	9.5	481
78 79	10	-1/6 0	9.5	175
99 9-10	18.7 17 17	1/3	9.5 9.5 9.5	.481 .595 1.215
10-11	who b	8/2	2 4 47	the to be thered

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Cantilever truss.

The solution of this truss was etarted at joint 2 instead of at one of the reactions. The distance h is equal to 5.2 feet since the distance from joint 2 to joint 9 parallel to the load line is 5.2 feet.

Since the truss does not have a constant vertical cross section, the vertical reactions are not direct sums of the vertical projections of the ht numbers. To explain the reason for this, suppose that the solution had started at reaction point 5. First, it would have been necessary to solve for the reactions then the regular solution could have been started.

The h distance for this solution would be the vertical depth of the truss at the reactions. If the solution is started at joint 2, therefore, the vertical reactions at 5 and 6 would be:

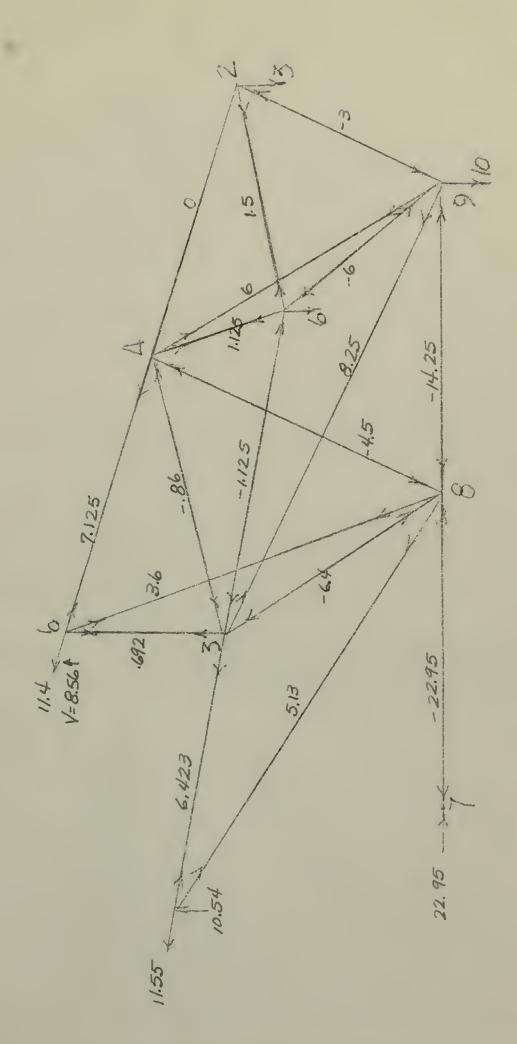
vertical depth truss at reactions x sum of ht numbers.

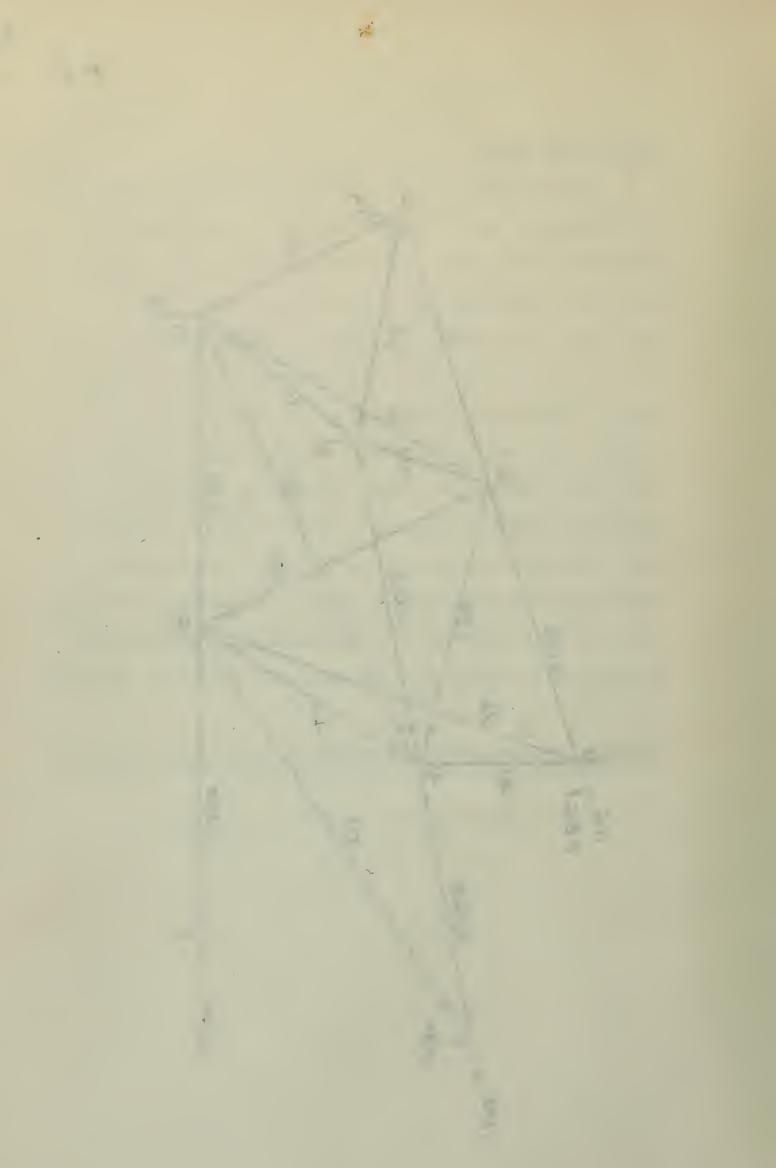
The solution of this cantilever follows.

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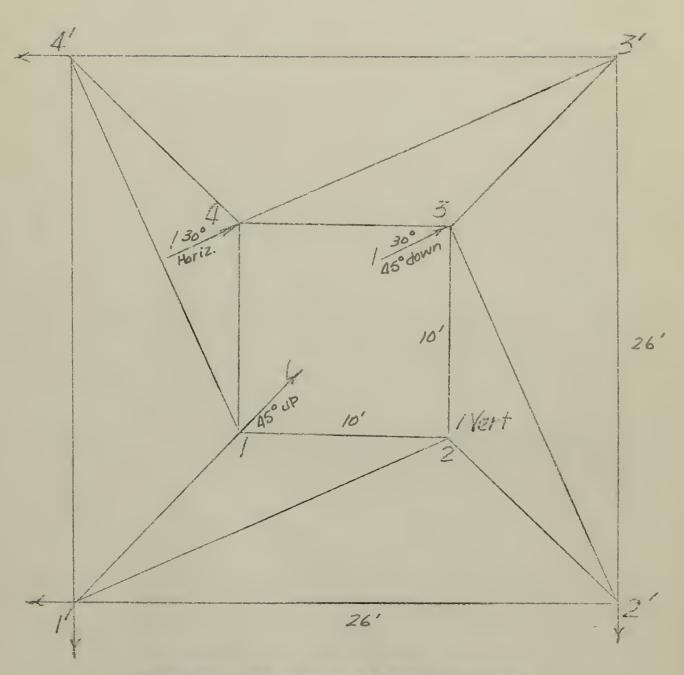




Summary table:

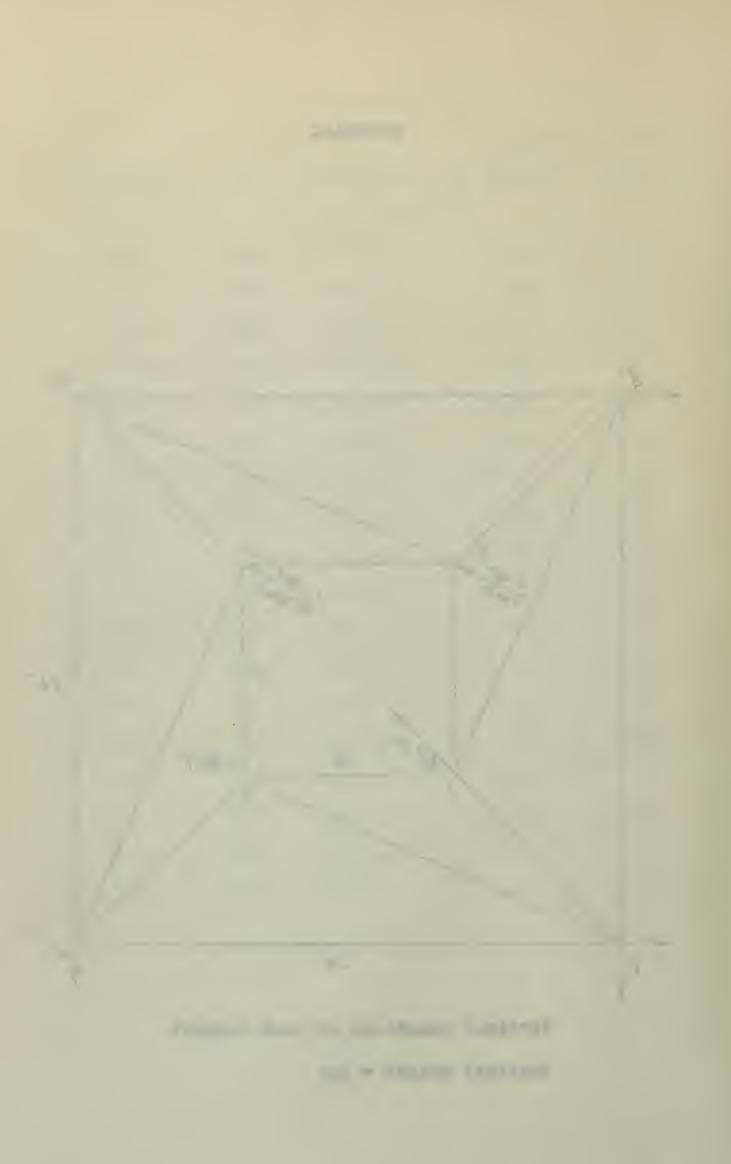
Member	Length (1	2) ht number	b	Strees bt x L
91	6.0	-6.000	5.2	-6.91
92	€.0	-3.000	5.2	-3.46
93	12.8	8.250	5.2	25.3
98	10.0	-14.250	5.2	-27.45
94	12.8	6.000	5.2	14.75
13	10.2	-1.125	5.2	-2.18
12	6.0	1.500	5.2	1.73
14	12.3	1.126	5.2	2.63
24	10.2	0.000	5.2	0.00
83.	8.0	-6.400	5.2	~9.8 3
87	10.0	-22.950	5.2	-44.10
85	14.14	5.130	5.2	13.85
86	14.14	3.600	5.2	9.81
84	8.0	-4.500	5.2	-6.92
35	10.2	6.423	5.2	12.60
36	13.56	.692	5.2	1.80
34.	8.0	860	5.2	-1.33
46	10.2	7.125	5.2	14.02

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Vertical reactions at each support

Vertical height = 20



Pedestal.

with this type loading, there is no way of picking the distance h from any of the rules given previously. If the solution is started at joint 1, the
load can be split into 2 acting vertically, 1/2 in
the X direction, and 1/2 in the Y direction. Suppose
that the solution is started at one of the reaction
joints. The distance h would then be 20 feet. Using
this distance for h, the ht numbers of each member at
each joint would be multiplied by projection of member

to set up the force balance e uations at the joint if the solution were started at a loaded joint, such as joint 1.

For example, the equations at joint 1 will be:

In the Z direction:

V2 ht_11, - ht_14;

In the Y direction:

 $\frac{1}{2} = 8/20 \text{ ht}_{11}, -8/20 \text{ ht}_{14}, + 10/20 \text{ ht}_{12}$

In the X direction:

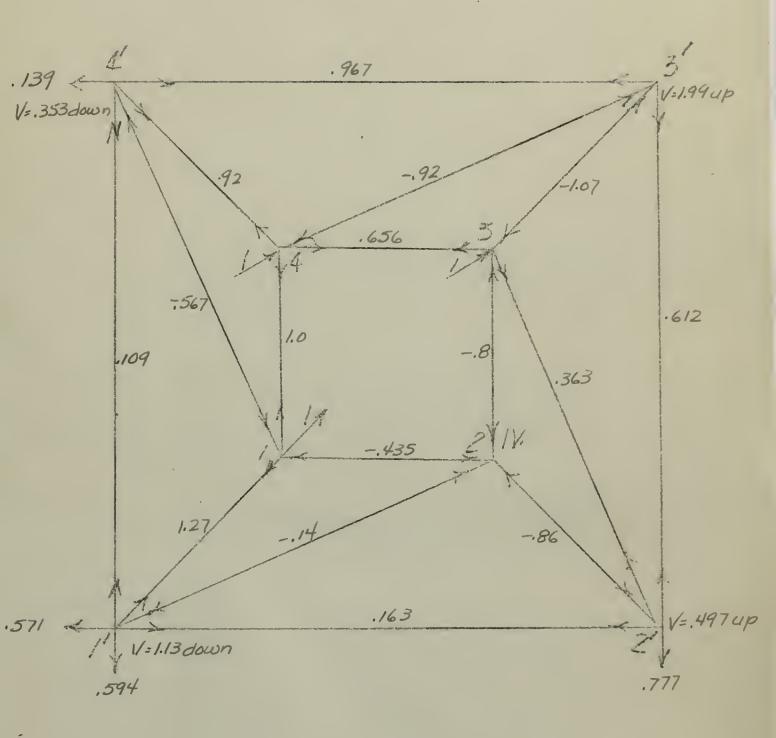
 $\frac{1}{2} = 8/20 \text{ ht}_{11}$ + $18/20 \text{ ht}_{14}$ - $10/20 \text{ ht}_{14}$

This is the reverse of the procedure used in the former problem when the vertical reactions were determined.

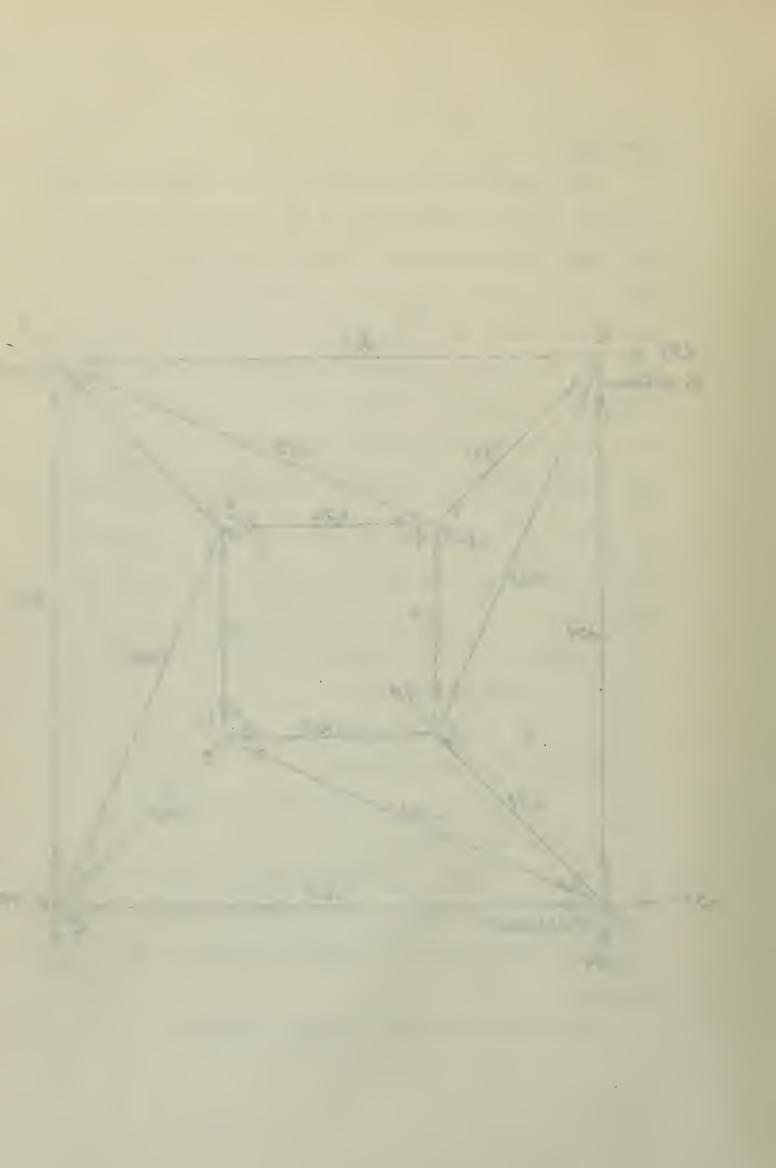
The solution for the pedestal follows.

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Summary tuble:

Momber	Length (I)	ht number	h	Stress bt x L
12	10	435	20	218
11'	23	1.27	20	1.455
14'	27.7	567	20	786
14	10	1.000	20	.500
21'	27.7	~.14	20	194
223	23	86	20	995
23	10	80	20	400
321	27.7	.363	20	.503
33*	23	-1.07	20	-1.228
34	10	•656	20	.328
431	27.7	92	20	-1.275
44*	23	.92	20	1.055
1,54	26	.163	20	.199
2'3'	26	.612	20	.795
3141	26	.967	20	1.256
4'1'	26	.100	20	.142

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SUMMARY

- 1. The simplified method is a system similar to index numbers in planar trusses. These numbers are called ht numbers in this paper.
- 2. The ht numbers are multiplied b Length to give h h
- 3. The h distance is the distance from the first joint solved to the next joint on a line parallel to the load line, unless the load line is not parallel to one of the axes. In that case, the distance h is the vertical distance from the first joint solved to the next joint and the ht numbers multiplied by his ratio length of member when
- the force balance equations are set up at the joints.

 4. Reactions are sums of ht number projections unless cross sections parallel to h have changed. In that case, the ht number projections are multiplied by cross section distance parallel to h.

CONCLUSIONS

method with several simplified solutions and in the problems solved, this solution has been the simpler. It is admitted that the solution has rules which are cumbersome to handle; however, if a person has several space frames to solve, it would be beneficial to investigate with this method. This method would be especially advantageous if solving for influence lines for three chord bridge trusses. It was hoped that it could be used for solving the bar ring stresses in the Schwedler dome, but the addition of stresses around the ring could not be handled. The dome structure itself is easily solved by the method explained in this paper.

Further research of this subject may bring further simplifications.

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